

the
BIG
QUESTION..

answered

about the
CCF
in Saskatchewan


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HAS THE
C.C.F. Government
Been True to its
Principle of
“HUMANITY FIRST”
?

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This Is What Saskatchewan People Say...

We print the names and addresses of the writers of the following letters so any one who has any doubts can easily check on the truth of the statements.

"I have had more than one benefit from the legislation passed by the C.C.F. Government. Starting when my wife came back from Regina General Hospital in January, 1948, I had hospital bills paid by the hospitalization plan to the value of over \$800, which cost me \$30 in 1947 and \$30 in 1948. What better investment could one want for the amount of money involved? As I happen to be a laborer, I don't know how I could have paid this amount for hospital care after having to pay over \$400 for doctor's services while receiving the \$800 hospital care.

"I also am receiving benefits from the Government Insurance Office, with which I have my house insured.

"There are several other savings and benefits also which we never think about. You can leave Kincaid at 7.50 a.m. and be back at 9.35 p.m. after having spent three hours in Regina or five hours in Moose Jaw all in the same day, by buying a ticket on the Government Bus Line, and also make a nice saving on the fare compared with the C.P.R.

"If benefits like this can be accomplished in three or four years, what could be done in, say, 25 years?"

Henry, Schwab.
Kincaid, Sask.

"I wish to say that I have benefitted a lot in having the hospitalization plan, as this last year I have had to go to hospital four times, being a diabetic, and the air ambulance was a means of saving my life last December when we were snowed in.

"I don't know how we would have paid our hospital bill, because this last four years have been crop failures in this district and we feel no other government ever did that much to help us before. The car insurance is another good thing."

Mrs. A. J. Quintaine,
Hawarden, Sask.

"Just a line to tell of the blessing brought to me through free treatment for old age pensioners. I have received treatment for an ailment of long standing in my right ear. Also I have received an operation and cure for a rupture which should have had attention two years ago. Also I have had my glasses changed and my false teeth repaired, and I am now enjoying life at 73 years of age. I am truly thankful for a government that fulfills all its promises."

J. H. Rockwood,
Prince Albert, Sask.

"Here are only a few of the many benefits myself and family have received from the present government. My father, an old age pensioner, had to spend considerable time in the hospital and all his expenses were paid by the Saskatchewan government. The bills paid by the government amounted to \$1,659.00. In my opinion no other government in the North American continent has equalled this record.

"Since I am unable to work, my wife is a recipient of the mother's allowance. Under the old government she was receiving \$24 per month. Shortly after the C.C.F. took office, her allowance was raised to \$75 per month. My wife, myself and all our children receive free hospitalization, also medical, X-ray, dental and optical care.

"The larger school units, which were inaugurated by the C.C.F. are a godsend to any community. Without it, our district would not

have a decent school to go to, whereas we have two fully modern schools and the finest teachers ever.

"For the past 16 years, I have been living in this district we have been travelling over roads that have been deplorable. Now we have as fine a highway as there is in the province running right through the district."

John M. Evans,
Somme, Sask.

"I think the Saskatchewan hospitalization is the greatest measure any government ever brought in.

"On September 9 I suffered a heart attack while working in the field, and was taken to the community hospital at Outlook, Sask.

"The doctor wouldn't allow me to leave for three weeks, I had X-rays taken, many shots of penicillin and when I was ready to leave I asked the matron what I owed over and above my hospitalization card. She said, "Nothing."

"What a wonderful feeling it gives one leaving the hospital.

"I would gladly pay \$20 per year to help patients to get free hospitalization.

"I have switched all my fire insurance from the old line companies to the government insurance and find it much cheaper.

"Many other reforms by the C.C.F. government, such as the Automobile Accident Insurance, has surely been a great help to many.

"Here's for greater support to the C.C.F. Government."

W. J. Boyle,
Hawarden, Sask.

"It is a pleasure to be able to tell what the Saskatchewan C.C.F. has done for me and my wife since the 31st of July, 1947. On that date we, with another couple were in a serious accident 5 miles from the town of Raymond, Alberta. The two women were seriously injured and taken to the hospital in Raymond. We were there for eleven days before we returned to Prince Albert. Since that time

my wife has been almost completely under the doctor's care and was in the hospital for 21½ months.

"This year I had to have an appendix operation, two days before I was 80 years old. Being an old age pensioner, our C.C.F. government has taken care of all the expenses in connection with all our trouble.

"My wife not being a pensioner, we only have \$35 per month for the two of us. I tremble to think what would have happened to us had we been under the old regime.

"Our car accident in Alberta was taken care of by virtue of the Automobile Accident Insurance Act. All hospital and doctor bills were paid in full, and in addition my wife was paid the sum of \$12.50 per week for six weeks for incapacity. All this and all hospital, doctors, and medicine taken care of for us by the C.C.F. Government.

"There is nothing to compare with it in the world today that I can learn of."

Edward W. Sager.
Box 267, Prince Albert, Sask.

"I am an old age pensioner. Through the old age security provided by the C.C.F. legislation I received a set of upper teeth without cost to me. But best of all, I got a pair of our own shoes, fit for a king, priced for a working man. They gave my feet a holiday and myself a better understanding. The most comfortable shoes I ever had. When our opponents catch on, they too will have a better understanding, and we will have to make more shoes."

J. C. Johnson,
High Hill, Sask.

"To tell you what the C.C.F. government has done for me would take pages to write. I homesteaded here in 1910 and we have raised 10 children. For many years I and six of my neighbors used the same road, which was full of slough-holes, without \$1 being spent on it. We were after the old parties, both Liberal and Conservative to do something about it. But nothing doing.

"After the C.C.F. was elected I wrote to Mr. Willis, our member, I told him the first time he drove down Number 4 to drive up our road, and if there was a worse road in Saskatchewan, that six farmers had to use, to please fix the other road first. In less than a month Mr. Willis drove up to my place. That was the first house.

"Well," he says, "I got this far and if the other one and one half miles is like this, I will go no farther."

He says, "I will fix this road soon." In less than six weeks we had a good road.

"That is only one thing that the C.C.F. has done. It used to cost me \$6 for a pair of shoes that would last three months. Now for \$6 we can get C.C.F. shoes that last two years. I have a pair that I have worn for 30 months, resoled three times and not a break in them. The hospitalization plan has saved me a lot of money and a lot of worry. We have blankets as good as the ones my mother made in the hills of Kentucky. We have been trying to get a bridge at Saskatchewan Landing for years. All we got was a "soap" bridge from Mr. Gardiner. Now we will get the bridge.

"My fire insurance has been cut 50 percent, and our car insurance is wonderful. My brother, in South Dakota, pays \$84 per year and does not get the protection I get for \$6.

"I have two daughters that are bookkeepers. The C.C.F. minimum wage has increased their salaries. Another daughter is a teacher, her salary has been doubled.

"Well, I could keep on for pages. If we had to go back to Liberal or Conservative I do not know what we would do.

"Keep up the good work."

J. B. Wilson.
Sanctuary, Sask.

"My wife took sick last January and needed hospital care. The doctor phoned for the air ambulance and in 25 minutes there was a plane here for her. The roads were blocked and we could not have got her to the hospital in any other way. My wife has also received free medicine and had all her doctor bills paid and her glasses changed. I also have had new glasses.

"We came to live in Saskatchewan in 1903 and have found the C.C.F. government the only good government we have ever had. We have always voted for it and always will. We are Old Age Pensioners and can thank the C.C.F. for all I have mentioned, and also for a raise in our pensions."

Theron Patience,
Bures, Sask.

"Just a note to tell you how much we appreciate the gravel road which has been built within half a mile of our place. Having pioneered up here since 1929, we can scarcely believe it. Even our Liberal and Social Credit friends do not mind using the C.C.F. gravel."

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh McCrimmon,
Four Corners, Sask.
Via Meadow Lake.

"It is nice to be able to speak freely of our government. It is still nicer to be able to speak proudly of it.

"Our provincial government has done all in its power, without any pressure from the people, to increase the old age pensioner's security by providing hospital, medical and dental services, as well as increase the old age pensions.

"Another question of great importance is our natural resources. It is the intention of the C.C.F. government to develop these resources for the good of this province. It might be well for some of the other provinces to take note of this.

"Had the present government let the timber industry drift the way former governments did, our resources of timber would have been depleted in no time. The old system of cut and burn has been done away with and the present government allows what would about equal the years growth to be cut each year.

"The department of health, under the leadership of Tommy Douglas, has gone the farthest, in its health program, of any province in the dominion. The people of Saskatchewan have complete hospitalization for ten dollars (family maximum \$30) a year. No other prov-

ince can make this claim. Several hospitals and health centres, which are 25 bed hospitals, have been built at various points in the province.

"Our government is also expanding their maintenance and road building program. No former government of this province can show figures to compare with the present one. It is not easy, in a province like ours, with such a vast mileage of roads, to give everyone a road, but now we are beginning to bear the fruits of our labor and new and better highways are reaching further into the newer settled parts, furnishing the people with good connecting links to the rest of the province.

"It is very consoling to know that, on top of all this, our provincial debt has been cut from the staggering amount of \$214,000,000 to about two-thirds of that—or roughly a cut of \$72,000,000. All this has been done in the short space of four years. Given reasonable time, our provincial debt will be liquidated completely.

"When the next election date rolls around the opponents will not be able to point an accusing finger at the C.C.F. government and say that they have failed to protect the people, neither will they be able to say that they have not tried to fulfill all their promises. We, the people, must not fail the C.C.F. government, we must keep this government, with its clean record, in office."

Alvah W. Shook,
Chelan, Sask.

"I am just going to mention a few of the good things the C.C.F. government has done for the people of Saskatchewan since 1944.

"First on the list is the hospitalization. It is a grand social service. I would not have been alive today under the old plan of everyone paying their own hospitalization and I think a great many people are like me, who would rather die than go to the hospital and mount up a big debt it would take them all the rest of their lives trying to pay.

"Housing and electrification are things that cannot be brought about by any provincial government without help from the federal government. We need a C.C.F. government in Ottawa so that Saskatchewan would have some co-operation to give to the people adequate housing and electrification, which is a very big project. The financial ability to subsidize such big undertakings can only be done by the

dominion. If we had the last 2 mentioned benefits we would not need so much hospitalization, as most of the people would be healthy.

"Away back in 1943 we were not allowed to ride on the back of a neighbor's truck to go to a dentist, and if you were too poor to own a car of your own and were 40 miles from a doctor or dentist you would have to do without these services. Most of our neighbors ran trucks so under the Liberals one could not go to the city for these necessary things. They helped the rich only.

"The C.C.F. takes the part of all people alike and we all get equal rights. We are glad for the day they got into government in Saskatchewan."

Yours sincerely,
Annie E. Moore,
Kelfield, Sask.

"We haven't yet had to obtain any benefits from the hospitalization plan, but certainly would have appreciated it in the years of 1943 and 1944 when my husband spent many months in the hospital.

"I receive the mothers' allowance and I must say that since I have been receiving it under the C.C.F.'s administration I have never had to worry. Their inspectors are so courteous and understanding of one's conditions. When they enter your home one does not feel like an outcast; they are just one who is trying to help you if you co-operate with them.

"I have been able to take any of my family to a doctor, and also go myself, and there has never been one word from the department of welfare of refusal to pay bills, and I have yet to hear of any complaint from any mother, in such need, in this part of the country, being refused help.

"The farm security legislation is one of the best securities the farmer has ever had in this province. One knows that they are safe on the home quarter and no one can take it from them.

"We who came to the north in the '30's and were amazed to see the destruction by fires and waste of timber and lumber, also seeing the amount of lumber that was being taken out of our forests, and receiving so little for all this wealth, think the timber policy of our government is certainly the right way of taking care of it.

"The larger school unit is one of the best things that could have ever been planned. We of the school district certainly know the benefits of a unit, being in such circumstances that we could not build a school or support it alone. The children get a far better education and schools are better taken care of.

"The extended road building program has been one of the greatest undertakings in this north-eastern part. Wonderful improvements are being made to the old roads, which have been so sadly neglected in the past. No more getting stuck in the mud holes and swamps. The new highways are a pleasure to drive on, and the roads are being improved every year.

"People are now getting assistance for clearing bush land and breaking. There are no more heartbreaking years of toil trying to get some land for crop.

"To me, and also my husband and family, there is no other party like the C.C.F. The party certainly keeps it word, 'Humanity First'."

Mrs. Ernest Naylor,
Greenwater Lake,
Chelan, Sask.

"Opening my Commonwealth after returning from a week's visit with friends in Regina, the first thing that met my eye was the caption 'Now You Tell Us,' and my first thought was, why not? Hence this letter!

"Three years ago last summer my wife and I were invited to visit some friends, during Exhibition week, who had been our neighbors for many years back on the farm, and as it would be our first sight of Regina since homesteading before Saskatchewan was a province, we were delighted to avail ourselves of their kindness.

"In the first instance we went by train, returning by bus. In the latter case, we went by car, returning by bus, and it is in the matter of returning by bus that I wish to draw the contrast. We had almost decided never to travel by bus again, after our experience three years ago. But we have nothing but praise for our government in attending to the comfort of passengers. In passing, I would like to congratulate

you on securing the type of young man who was the driver; quiet, unassuming and courteous.

"We feel it almost as much a duty as a privilege to write you thus, and are glad to do so."

S. Richards,
Box 8, Clair, Sask.

"I am a real old-timer. Came West in 1901. It has made me very happy to see the benefits brought by the legislation of the C.C.F. Government and it has been a grand and glorious feeling to see the policies and principles I helped to formulate, all down the years, in my own small way, blossom forth into action and realization by the splendid efforts of 'Our C.C.F. Legislative Boys,' whom we put there to do the "Humanity First" job.

"For every being warmth and food,

Thus is earth's bounty meant—

Until my brother shares all good,

I will not rest content."

Mrs. Jessie E. Cameron,
Findlater, Sask.

"Words almost fail me to tell you what the C.C.F. government has done for my late husband and myself. I don't know what I would have done without the C.C.F. I guess I would have given up in despair.

"Our C.C.F. government has done more in four years than the so-called Liberals did in all the years they were in power.

"The C.C.F. is fulfilling its promises and doing more and blowing its horn less than the Liberals ever did.

"All good wishes, and may the C.C.F. government reign, is the earnest prayer of

Yours thankfully,
Mrs. J. K. Bergstra,
Macrorie, Sask.

"Last October 10 a man and wife hired a neighbor to drive them to Endeavour, Sask. Crossing the railroad track near Ketchen, Sask. they were hit by a train.

"The husband was killed instantly and the wife died the next day in the hospital. Under any other standard 5-point insurance policy, costing \$50 or more, these people would have received nothing. Because of our Saskatchewan Government Insurance, costing the driver of the car (a Model 'A' Ford Coupe) \$4.50, the three dependent children will receive approximately \$6,375—which will enable them to obtain an education and not become a charge on the municipality.

"The owner of the car, who was not seriously injured, was also re-imbursed for his total loss, less the \$100 deductible.

"Where our government insurance is able to provide so much protection for so small a fee, one wonders just how many millions the line insurance companies have been taking from us in the past years. I also note that car insurance is to go up 21 percent in other provinces but it doesn't apply to Saskatchewan."

M. H. Feeley,
Preeceville, Sask

"The C.C.F. Government is a real people's government elected by the people for the people. It is doing a splendid job and has done its best to fulfill all the promises it made when it was elected. We have not forgotten the numerous promises made by the other parties that were never carried any further than the platform their candidate was speaking from.

"I am an old age pension recipient, and I want to express my thanks on behalf of my wife, myself and O.A.P. Branch, No. 11, of Chelan, for the care and consideration that has been shown to the senior citizens of our province. What a vast difference between the present C.C.F. government and the old Liberal regime. Before the C.C.F. were elected, \$17 a month was the average monthly pension. Then if you had a goose or a hen you must keep track of each egg they laid, and their value plus the value of the goose or hen would be deducted from the monthly allowance. There was then no free medical or hospital aid at all.

"My wife and myself are both suffering from a chronic ailment and our C.C.F. government has taken care of all our doctor and medical needs and it has not cost us one cent. I feel that the health scheme worked out by our C.C.F. Government is one of the best anywhere in Canada or in any other country.

"One of the ten commandments given by God, the only one with a promised reward is "Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long in the land the Lord thy God hath given thee"! In my mind this does not only mean our own father and mother, but means that it is also our duty to do all we can to lighten the burden of all our senior citizens. The Saskatchewan government has put through the many reforms we are enjoying and would have enlarged on them if they could have received more friendly co-operation from the Liberal government at Ottawa. We know they are working on further reforms as price control, better labor laws, farm mortgage act and the abolition of the grain exchange, which makes fortunes out of the grain we produce.

"Now I feel it is our duty to get behind the C.C.F. and push forward with all our strength and what money we can spare until we have a C.C.F. government at Ottawa."

E. W. Bolton.
Clemenceau, Sask.

"As a salesman I have covered many hundreds of thousands of miles in the course of my travels and realize how vital and necessary a car is to the average salesman, and when a car is tied up for any length of time it means loss in volume and loss in earnings on the part of the salesman involved.

"Being fairly new to Regina I decided to investigate the rates of car insurance as issued by the Saskatchewan Government Insurance Office. One of the agents, being a friend of mine, explained the whole program and sold me a package policy for \$18.80.

"In my own interests, I had enquired about insuring with the government insurance, and with few exceptions was told that in the event of an accident I would have to put my car in a government garage and it might be a month to six weeks before I would get my car back. This information was very disturbing. However, my agent assured me that providing the charges for repairs were reasonable, I could have my car repaired at any place I chose.

"It so happened I had an accident a week ago and damaged my car to the extent of \$115. I immediately contacted the insurance office and the first question they asked me was "Where would you like the work done?" I specified a certain garage. Their estimate was

satisfactory and my car was tied up for about four days. It's in first class shape and I am more than pleased with the way everything was handled.

"This is my own personal experience and the views expressed are entirely my own."

R. H. Wheatley,
Regina, Sask.

"With the vacation season again coming to the fore, and upon receipt of those holiday cheques, loud or silent admiration and gratitude again will be expressed in many languages to the Saskatchewan legislators who foresaw the plight of the unorganized and placed on the statute books a holiday for all.

"This will come from the dishwasher, the counter girl, the man who toils with shovel and hoe—for whom organized labor has accomplished directly very little.

"Having read in my lodge magazine the accounts of my union's accomplishments in the past 60 years through organization and legislation, and what is yet hoped to be accomplished, we in Saskatchewan are far ahead. As an A. F. of L. trade unionist I can truly appreciate the labor legislation of this province, and as a Saskatchewanian I am glad it was Saskatchewan who has shown the road to true labor legislation to the rest of the dominion.

E. Nussberger,
Regina, Sask.

"Want to know what we think of our party? We went all out for what you did re education of our eight children; took off our hats for the hospital plan and kept them off. In crop distress the C.C.F. kept our farm homes under our feet. We've no money to send you, but our heartfelt support is with you, and if you keep up the good work this family will soon be in shape to help you."

Henry St. Pierre.
Victoire, Sask.

"I am thankful I live in a province which has inaugurated humanitarian legislation. Although I could mention many others, I am going to limit my remarks to two things, namely the hospitalization scheme and the Automobile Accident Insurance Act.

"The hospitalization plan is the only method by which universal

protection against the accumulation of large hospital bills can be achieved. I have heard people complain about having to pay the hospital fee. Compulsion, they say. Do they complain about having to drive on the right hand side of the street? Do they complain about the state educating their children? People in this category learn the hard way. I know one or two who have had heavy hospital bills paid for them by this plan. Their bitter criticism concerning compulsion, etc., has lost much of its edge. Anyone who is willing to think economically rather than politically cannot help but support this type of legislation.

"The Automobile Accident Insurance Act was designed primarily to protect people from the economic loss incurred through death and injury in auto accidents and it has accomplished much. When I hear people criticize compulsory auto insurance I ask them what coverage they have under the act. Invariably, they do not know. There is no other way of securing universal protection and the man who says he has to go and buy additional insurance at a cost of \$40 to \$50 to get adequate protection can be listed as one who is ignorant of the facts. The Automobile Accident Act provides basic protection, and additional insurance can be purchased for \$17.50 from the Government Insurance Office or, if prejudice is strong enough, one may purchase from a private company adequate insurance for as little as \$24. The low rates on auto insurance in Saskatchewan today have been brought about by the Auto Accident Insurance Act.

"Some people assume that the premium paid for insurance along with license and the \$10 hospitalization fee is lost money, unless they have an accident or are hospitalized. If this were true one should assume that that portion of our income tax which is used for armament is lost if we do not fight a war. Silly, isn't it? Unfortunately, there is no known method of surgery by which a new idea may be grafted into a closed mind.

"The hospitalization plan has paid a hospital bill for me already because of unexpected illness. However, I would gladly pay my hospitalization fee and my auto insurance for the next thirty years and consider myself more than fortunate if I were never ill enough to require hospitalization or involved in an accident. These plans are based on the Christian premise, "Bear ye one another's burdens" and both can be described in one simple word, 'admirable'."

Wes Robbins.
Saskatoon, Sask.

**No other government in Canada
has ever equalled the outstand-
ing record of the CCF govern-
ment of Saskatchewan.**

